IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Switched~~ A switched full-duplex Ethernet ~~type~~ communication network comprising:

at least one source subscriber equipment and at least one destination subscriber equipment connected to each other through at least one physical link through at least one switch and through at least one virtual link, which is a conceptual representation of a link from a source equipment to at least one destination equipment, wherein each source equipment that transmits Ethernet frames comprises:

a control to segregate between virtual links and to allocate a passband for each virtual link, the passband of a virtual link being equal to: (packet size)/(minimum inter-packet time), the sum of passbands of the virtual links in transmission being less than about 5 Mbits/s; and

a control to multiplex the virtual links on the physical links output from the source equipment, each transmitted frame having a field that identifies the virtual link to which it belongs,

wherein each switch is configured to discard incoming packets if, for each incoming virtual link, one or more predetermined time constraints for said incoming packets are violated,

and wherein each destination equipment is configured to subscribe for an application in reception to at least one virtual link and to make the segregation between virtual links to said application for the duration of the application.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Network~~ A network according to claim 1, wherein each destination equipment comprises a control to subscribe in reception to at least one virtual link and to make segregation between virtual links as far as an application.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Network~~ A network according to claim 1, wherein each switch comprises a control to control an incoming passband for each virtual link.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Network~~ A network according to claim 3, further comprising a static configuration table allowing each switch to know the virtual links that it has to switch and a number of authorized packets for a virtual link.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Network~~ A network according to claim 4, wherein each switch comprises:

a control to configure each input port separately to indicate output ports to which each Ethernet frame must be directed as a function of the field identifier of the virtual link;

a control to monitor flow of Ethernet frames associated with each virtual link that passes through the switch;

a control to reformat the flow in each virtual link; and

a control to multiplex flows in virtual links on each output port.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Network~~ A network according to claim 5, wherein each switch comprises the following in sequence:

an input port;

a flow controller;

a switching motor supporting multidestination transfers;

a flow controller;

a flow reformatting device;

a virtual link multiplexer; and

an output port;

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Network~~ A network according to claim 1, wherein [[a]] the virtual link ~~is characterized by~~ comprises:

a transfer direction, the virtual link being single directional;

a source equipment;

one or several destination equipment;

a fixed passband;

a guaranteed maximum time for transfer of packets from a source equipment to a destination equipment, regardless of the behaviour of the rest of the network, each virtual link having its own transfer time;

a fixed path on the network; and

an unique identifier.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Network~~ A network according to claim 1, wherein network redundancy is achieved by doubling up the network~~, each subscriber having a connection to each of the two networks~~.